Information about the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

What is the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program?

The Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) assists households who were living in the disaster area at the time of the disaster and plan on purchasing food during the disaster benefit period. If you are eligible for the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, you will receive an Electronic Benefit Card that you can use to buy food.

What is the Disaster Benefit Period?

The disaster benefit period is determined separately for each disaster. It is usually a 30-day period. Ask your worker what the disaster benefit period is for this disaster.

What is a household?

Your household consists of the people who are living with you now who were living with you and purchasing and preparing food with you at the time of the disaster.

How do you qualify for the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program?

You may qualify for the DSNAP if your household meets the income limits and has experienced one or more of the following as a direct result of the disaster:

- Loss of food.
- Damage to, or destruction of, your home or self-employment business. Examples include, but are not limited to, complete destruction, loss of roof or walls, and destruction of heating equipment.
- Disaster-related expenses for which you do not expect to be reimbursed during the disaster benefit period.
- Loss or inaccessibility of income, including reduction or termination of income, or a significant delay in receipt of income due to the disaster.
- Inaccessible liquid resources, including situations in which financial institutions are closed for a significant amount of time due to the disaster.

How is your Disaster Gross Income determined?

Your household’s total income received during the disaster benefit period, plus accessible liquid resources, minus certain disaster-related expenses is the Disaster Gross Income for your household. This amount cannot exceed the Disaster Gross Income Limit for your household size.
What income is counted in the Disaster Gross Income?
Countable income includes your household’s take-home pay and unearned income received, or reasonably expected to be received, during the disaster benefit period.

Take-home pay includes the wages your household actually receives after taxes and all other payroll withholdings are taken out. It also includes net self-employment income.

Some examples of countable unearned income are Social Security benefits, SSI, child support, pensions, unemployment benefits, workers’ compensation, and FITAP/KCSP benefits.

What are accessible liquid resources?
Accessible liquid resources include cash on hand, all funds in checking and savings accounts, certificates of deposit, and money market accounts. It does not include Individual Retirement Accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, trust funds, real property, disaster insurance payments, or disaster assistance received or expected to be received during the disaster benefit period.

What are disaster-related expenses?
Disaster-related expenses are expenses that your household has paid or expects to pay during the disaster benefit period. However, if your household has received or expects to receive a reimbursement for any of these expenses during the disaster benefit period, a deduction will be given only for the expenses that will not be reimbursed. Disaster-related expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Food destroyed in the disaster that your household has replaced or intends to replace,
- Cost to repair or replace disaster damage to your home, property, or business,
- Medical or funeral expenses related to the disaster,
- Dependent care expenses directly due to the disaster,
- Cost to repair or replace tools/equipment needed for work,
- Temporary shelter expenses if you are unable to live in your home,
- Moving expenses if you have been evacuated from your home,
- Expenses to protect your property from disaster damage,
- Disaster-related pet boarding fees,
- Expenses related to replacing necessary personal and household items, such as clothing, appliances, tools, and educational materials,
- Fuel for primary heating source,
- Cost of clean-up items,
- Cost to repair disaster-related damages of vehicles, and
- Storage expenses.

What type of verification must you provide?
Your identity must be verified. You can verify identity with a driver’s license, picture ID, work or school ID, a voter registration card, paycheck stubs, birth certificate, or an ID for health benefits or another assistance or social services program.